

produced two original documentary films, *Restrictions Apply*, about San Luis Obispo's history of housing discrimination and *Kut To Be the Best: The Last Black Barbershop* in San Luis Obispo, as a tribute to Black owned businesses and the importance of the cultural spaces created by them.

Courtney's work through R.A.C.E. Matters has opened the eyes of the community to the talents, contributions, and value of our Black citizens. Given that our county is but 2.2 percent Black, this is a tall order, but Courtney has been able to shine her light and lead the way toward this vision. San Luis Obispo County is better off because Courtney Haile lives here.

I am honored to recognize Courtney for her continued commitment to improving our community and the residents of San Luis Obispo County. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Courtney Haile, for her incredible service to her community.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER  
TONAWANDA SUPERVISOR RON-  
ALD H. MOLINE

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**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Tonawanda Town Supervisor Ronald H. Moline, a native of Western New York. Ron was well-liked and well-respected as an educator, and served as a member of the Tonawanda Town Board for more than a quarter-century.

A graduate of Sweet Home High School and the State University of New York at Buffalo, Ron began a career as a high school history teacher with Buffalo Public Schools in 1964. In 1981, he embarked upon a political career in the town of Tonawanda, winning a grueling race for a seat on the Town Board. After the incumbent Supervisor passed away two years later, Mr. Moline accepted appointment to the position, and subsequently won election to the seat in his own right. Ron would move back to a seat as Councilman in 1993 and would again become Supervisor in 2000.

As Supervisor, Ron worked to grow industrial parks in Tonawanda, and worked closely with companies including General Motors, Dunlop, DuPont, and Praxair to both maintain current jobs in Tonawanda and grow opportunities for both corporations and local workers. Ron was an innovator in local government as well, establishing a Yahoo chat room in 2001 for concerned citizens to communicate directly with elected Town leaders, allowing them to be, as he said, more "close, available, and responsive to our constituents."

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to remember the life and accomplishments of Supervisor Ron Moline, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring his legacy and extending our condolences to his family and friends.

APPRECIATING PRIME MINISTER  
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the statement issued on change of governance in Israel, by Jack Rosen, President of American Jewish Congress, was heart-felt on the service of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. "We also want to thank outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his long-time service and leadership. Mr. Netanyahu has greatly contributed to Israel's progress, especially in strengthening the country's security, transforming it into an economic powerhouse, and advancing its standing in the international arena. Under Prime Minister Netanyahu's watch, Israel underwent an extraordinary rapprochement with the Arab world, as attested to by the historic normalization agreements achieved with several Arab countries. We wish him well."

A highlight of my service in Congress has been for me and my wife, Roxanne, to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu in Jerusalem and Washington. As co-chair of the Israel Caucus, I know firsthand of his extraordinary dedication for the people of Israel.

I agree with Mr. Rosen. "We look forward to engaging with the new Israeli government to help take American-Israeli relations to new heights, to addressing critical regional challenges together, and to achieving sustainable peace and prosperity for all."

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

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IN HONOR OF PAUL PLOTKIN

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021*

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Paul Plotkin. Born on June 19, 1921, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Mr. Plotkin is a veteran and a resident of Derry, New Hampshire. During World War II, he answered the call of his nation and joined the U.S. Army, serving with the 66th Infantry Division in Europe.

Mr. Plotkin endured great hardship during his military service. He was among the more than 2,000 American soldiers being transported from Southampton, England, to Cherbourg, France, aboard the troopship SS Léopoldville when the ship was struck by a torpedo from a German submarine on the evening of December 24, 1944. 763 American soldiers tragically lost their lives in the initial blast and the resulting sinking of the ship in the frigid waters of the English Channel, but Mr. Plotkin survived and made it to France. Although discussion of the Léopoldville disaster was censored in the aftermath of the tragedy, Mr. Plotkin preserved the memory of what he experienced and carried it on to today. Now, as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1617, Mr. Plotkin continues to honor the memory of his comrades and their sacrifice by supporting fellow veterans and speaking out about his experiences during the war.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to wish Mr. Plotkin a happy 100th birthday and thank him for his service to our nation. I hope that he has a wonderful celebration with his loved ones and fellow veterans. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

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IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR MIKE  
DONNELLY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career of Mayor Mike Donnelly of Double Oak, Texas. Mayor Donnelly's almost two decades of service in public office is a model of civic duty. As he retires following his fifth term in mayoral office, it is my distinct honor to recognize his service to our community.

Since he became a resident of Double Oak in 2002, Mike Donnelly has served his community faithfully as a volunteer and public servant. He was initially elected to the Double Oak Town Council in 2004 and served in that position for three terms before running unopposed for his first term of Mayor in 2009. Following his first mayoral term, he stepped away to care for his mother. He was re-elected to the Town Council in 2012 and his council colleagues appointed him as Mayor Pro Tem. Following the death of Mayor Tom Pidcock in July 2012, he was appointed to fill the Mayor's seat, a position to which he has been re-elected each succeeding term. During his public service, Mayor Donnelly has maintained a full-time professional career with American Airlines for over thirty years.

The Town of Double Oak has prospered under Mayor Donnelly's leadership. This North Texas municipality continues to boast one of the lowest income tax rates in the State of Texas, thanks in large part to the efficiency and skill of Mayor Donnelly's administration. Last year, Mayor Donnelly and the Town Council's successful infrastructure, police, and education initiatives culminated in Double Oak being named the "Safest City in Texas." Mayor Donnelly's outstanding civic achievements and personal philanthropic contributions are to be applauded.

On behalf of the 26th District, I am privileged to congratulate and thank Mayor Mike Donnelly as he steps down after a long career of estimable public service. Best wishes to Mayor Donnelly as he returns to private life. His positive impact on Double Oak will continue to benefit its citizens for years to come.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE TENURE  
OF ORANGE COUNTY SANITA-  
TION DISTRICT BOARD CHAIR-  
MAN DAVID JOHN SHAWVER

**HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021*

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenure of the City of Stanton Mayor David John Shawver as Chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District

(OC San) Board of Directors, and his dedication and service to the residents of Orange County in this capacity.

Throughout his tenure on the OC San board from December 2018 through June 2021, Chairman Shawver has remained steadfast in his commitment to providing an affordable service to the community, while understanding the importance of keeping with OC San's mission of protecting the public health and the environment.

Under his leadership, Chairman Shawver and the Board of Directors understood the financial hardship COVID-19 created for many of our ratepayers. As a result, the Board of Directors forwent the board approved regional sewer service fee increase for the 2020-21 fiscal year, keeping it at \$339 for the year, which is less than \$1 a day.

Chairman Shawver's commitment to affordable water and water use has allowed OC San to move in the direction to recycle 100 percent of its reclaimable flow through the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), a joint project between OC San and the Orange County Water District.

Upon completion of this project in 2023, GWRS will produce 130 million gallons of high-quality water every day, which will be enough water for 1 million residents in north and central Orange County.

As a former educator myself, I would also like to recognize Chairman Shawver for his more than 40 years of service as an educator in the Long Beach Unified School District, at Long Beach City College, and at Hope International University in Fullerton.

On behalf of the residents of the 47th District, I want to thank Chairman Shawver for his years of service and dedication to OC San and to the community he has committed himself to serving.

#### HONORING DR. ALA STANFORD AS A VIRTUAL GUEST FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ADDRESS TO JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

##### HON. MARY GAY SCANLON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021*

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ala Stanford from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday, April 28, 2021, President Biden delivered his first address to a Joint Session of Congress, 100 days into his first term.

When President Biden took the oath of office, he pledged that help was on the way. Thanks to our work together to enact the American Rescue Plan, help is here.

Hardworking people in Pennsylvania and all across the country have been the heroes of the pandemic, and now they are leading our recovery. Dr. Stanford is one of those heroes.

The Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium was founded by Dr. Stanford in 2020 to educate and advocate for the Black community in order to reduce the incidence of disease and death from coronavirus.

The group originally focused on bringing testing to underserved communities, and now

they also run vaccination clinics in these same areas. Dr. Stanford and her team are intentional about targeting their resources to the Black community because Black Americans have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus and are still underrepresented in the number of people who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

After more than a year of having our lives consumed by COVID-19, I could think of no better person to represent our region at President Biden's Joint Address to Congress than Dr. Stanford. When the pandemic hit, she figured out what needed to be done, and then she did it. She has dedicated herself to the work of serving her community and reducing racial disparities in access to testing and vaccines.

In a typical year, I would have invited Dr. Stanford to join me in the House Chamber for the Joint Address. COVID-19 safety protocols limited this year's in-person attendance, and—along with many other Members of Congress—instead watched the address from home.

However, I couldn't miss this important opportunity to honor Dr. Stanford and people like her all across Pennsylvania.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF JAY SIMSON

##### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jay Simson, the President of The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York, on his retirement after 29 years of dedicated service.

ACEC New York represents the business interests of nearly 300 engineering and related firms in New York State. These are the companies that design our built environment. Without them, our transportation infrastructure, our public buildings, private office towers, hospitals, and so much more would simply not exist.

Jay Simson was a leader in his industry and a driving force for the interests of his member firms in Albany and before Congress. I know many of my colleagues from the New York delegation know Jay and have worked with him on a wide range of issues over the years.

What many of my colleagues might not know about Jay is that he is also an Olympic judge. He served on the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team board and was their delegate to the International Ski Federation. He was also the Head Judge for Freestyle Skiing at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

I thank Jay Simson for his commitment to the engineering industry and congratulate him on his retirement.

#### HONORING WILLIAM GILLISON

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 15, 2021*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William Gillison.

Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, Pastor William Gillison attended Lackawanna, New York schools and enrolled in the United States Army in 1965. Sixteen years later—in 1981—Reverend Gillison became the pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church. During his time at Mt. Olive, the church's capacity increased tenfold, from 150 to 1,500.

Early in his career, Reverend Gillison founded the Mt. Olive Development Corporation, which continues to provide subsidized apartments for low income residents. Mt. Olive also operates as a distribution center for food and other essentials in Western New York. During the Covid-19 pandemic, it served as a testing and vaccination site. Interviewed by WGRZ, Pastor Gillison said that "The pandemic has really magnified and exposed in many cases the deficiencies in especially black and brown communities." Mt. Olive helped to lessen the racial disparities in vaccine distribution, furthering its mission and serving thousands of local community members.

Mt. Olive serves in every season. During the summer, the Church hosts a cookout and fireworks show for families. In the fall, it provides Thanksgiving dinners to 1,500 families. In the winter, through its Angel Tree Ministry program, it gives Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated men and women. Before he became president, George W. Bush visited Mt. Olive and was impressed with its work.

Pastor Gillison's experience with the government has not always been cordial. Working closely with attorney Johnnie Cochrane, Pastor Gillison fought to overturn a ban on bus routes to the Galleria Mall. This discriminatory practice prevented many people of color from shopping at the Mall, and even led to the killing of a worker who was forced to walk to her job at the Galleria Mall.

Pastor Gillison has served two terms as the President of the Baptist Ministers Conference and the Baptist Great Lakes Conference. He is the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees and has been recognized by national organizations for his ministry and service. He is particularly known for his interfaith communication; Pastor Gillison has traveled to Israel multiple times and formed relationships with both government and religious officials. None of this would have been accomplished without the help of his loving and devoted wife of 58 years, Antonia Gillison. She has been his greatest supporter. While being a pastor he has also maintained his strong fatherly presence with his children.

Pastor Gillison has advanced our community spiritually, politically, and economically. He has been a tireless advocate for those with no hope and no voice. His leadership has transformed Mt. Olive into an indispensable beacon of light for our community and his work has touched lives across the country and world. During his fortieth anniversary as pastor, we celebrate how much Mt. Olive has accomplished, and we pray for the community it serves. Though he has accomplished much, Pastor Gillison is just grateful for the opportunity to serve. As he would say, "To God be the Glory."